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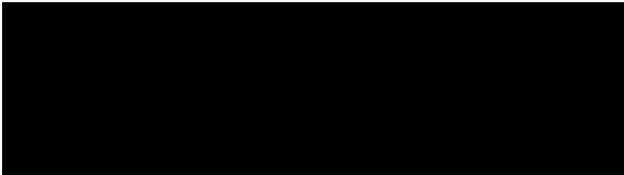
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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Office of Administrative Appeals MS 2090
Washington, DC 20529-2090



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

H₂



FILE:



Office: MEXICO CITY, MEXICO
(CIUDAD JUAREZ)

Date: **JAN 26 2010**

(CDJ 2004 759 872)

IN RE:



APPLICATION: Application for Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility under section 212(a)(9)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(B)

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT:

SELF-REPRESENTED

INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office in your case. All documents have been returned to the office that originally decided your case. Any further inquiry must be made to that office.

If you believe the law was inappropriately applied or you have additional information that you wish to have considered, you may file a motion to reconsider or a motion to reopen. Please refer to 8 C.F.R. § 103.5 for the specific requirements. All motions must be submitted to the office that originally decided your case by filing a Form I-290B, Notice of Appeal or Motion, with a fee of \$585. Any motion must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reconsider or reopen, as required by 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(1)(i).

Perry Rhew
Chief, Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The waiver application was denied by the District Director, Mexico City, Mexico. The matter is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant is a native and citizen of Mexico who was found to be inadmissible to the United States under section 212(a)(9)(B)(i)(II) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(B)(i)(II), for having been unlawfully present in the United States for more than one year and seeking readmission within ten years of his last departure from the United States. The applicant is married to a United States citizen. He seeks a waiver of inadmissibility in order to reside in the United States with his spouse and their U.S. citizen child.¹

The District Director found that, based on the evidence in the record, the applicant had failed to establish extreme hardship to his qualifying relative. The application was denied accordingly. *Decision of the District Director*, dated September 22, 2006.

On appeal, the applicant asserts that his spouse has been devastated physically and psychologically by his absence. *Form I-290B, Notice of Appeal to the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO)*.

In support of these assertions the record includes, but is not limited to, a psychological evaluation for the applicant's spouse; statements by the applicant's spouse; and a medical letter for the applicant's spouse. The entire record was reviewed and considered in rendering a decision on the appeal.

Section 212(a)(9)(B) of the Act provides, in pertinent part:

(B) Aliens Unlawfully Present.-

(i) In general. - Any alien (other than an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence) who-

(II) has been unlawfully present in the United States for one year or more, and who again seeks admission within 10 years of the date of such alien's departure or removal from the United States, is inadmissible.

....

(v) Waiver. - The Attorney General [now the Secretary of Homeland Security (Secretary)] has sole discretion to waive clause (i) in the case of an

¹ The AAO notes that at the time of the appeal, the record indicates that the applicant's spouse was pregnant with a second child.

immigrant who is the spouse or son or daughter of a United States citizen or of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, if it is established to the satisfaction of the Attorney General [Secretary] that the refusal of admission to such immigrant alien would result in extreme hardship to the citizen or lawfully resident spouse or parent of such alien.

In the present case, the record indicates that the applicant entered the United States without inspection in January 2000 and voluntarily departed on November 6, 2005, returning to Mexico. *Consular Memorandum, American Consulate General, Ciudad Juarez, Mexico*, dated November 6, 2005. The applicant, therefore, accrued unlawful presence from June 24, 2001, the date of his 18th birthday, until he departed the United States on November 6, 2005. In applying for an immigrant visa, the applicant is seeking admission within ten years of his November 6, 2005 departure from the United States. The applicant is, therefore, inadmissible to the United States under section 212(a)(9)(B)(i)(II) of the Act for being unlawfully present in the United States for a period of more than one year.

A section 212(a)(9)(B)(v) waiver of the bar to admission resulting from a violation of section 212(a)(9)(B)(i)(II) of the Act is dependent first upon a showing that the bar imposes an extreme hardship to the citizen or lawfully resident spouse or parent of the applicant. The plain language of the statute indicates that hardship that the applicant or his child would experience as a result of his inadmissibility is not directly relevant to the determination as to whether he is eligible for a waiver. The only directly relevant hardship in the present case is hardship suffered by the applicant's spouse if the applicant is found to be inadmissible. Hardship to a non-qualifying relative will be considered to the extent that it affects the applicant's spouse. If extreme hardship is established, it is but one favorable factor to be considered in the determination of whether the Secretary should exercise discretion. *See Matter of Mendez*, 21 I&N Dec. 296 (BIA 1996).

Matter of Cervantes-Gonzalez, 22 I&N Dec. 560 (BIA 1999) provides a list of factors the Board of Immigration Appeals deems relevant in determining whether an alien has established extreme hardship pursuant to section 212(i) of the Act. These factors include the presence of a lawful permanent resident or United States citizen family ties to this country; the qualifying relative's family ties outside the United States; the conditions in the country or countries to which the qualifying relative would relocate and the extent of the qualifying relative's ties in such countries; the financial impact of departure from this country; and significant conditions of health, particularly when tied to an unavailability of suitable medical care in the country to which the qualifying relative would relocate.

The AAO notes that extreme hardship to the applicant's spouse must be established whether she resides in Mexico or the United States, as she is not required to reside outside the United States based on the denial of the applicant's waiver request. The AAO will consider the relevant factors in adjudication of this case.

If the applicant's spouse joins the applicant in Mexico, the applicant needs to establish that his spouse will suffer extreme hardship. The applicant's spouse is a native of Mexico. *Naturalization*

certificate. The record does not address whether she has any familial or cultural ties to Mexico, nor does the record address her language abilities and how that may affect her adjustment to Mexico. The record does not address employment opportunities for the applicant's spouse in Mexico, nor does the record document, through published country conditions reports, the economic situation in Mexico and the cost of living. The record makes no mention of whether the applicant's spouse suffers from any type of health condition, physical or mental, that would require treatment in Mexico and if so, whether she would be able to receive adequate care. When looking at the record before it, the AAO does not find that the applicant has demonstrated extreme hardship to his spouse if she were to reside in Mexico.

If the applicant's spouse resides in the United States, the applicant needs to establish that his spouse will suffer extreme hardship. As previously noted, the applicant's spouse is a native of Mexico. *Naturalization certificate*. In a statement submitted on appeal, the applicant's spouse notes that she has been suffering from depression since the devastating experience of giving birth to her and the applicant's first child without the presence of the applicant. *Statement from the applicant's spouse*, dated September 29, 2006. She notes that she has been unable to go back to work. *Id.* The applicant's spouse also states that she has never experienced such extreme feelings of depression and loneliness. *Id.* A psychological evaluation included in the record diagnoses the applicant's spouse as suffering from Major Depressive Disorder, Single Episode and Generalized Anxiety Disorder. *Statement from [REDACTED]* dated October 4, 2006. The therapist notes that the prognosis for the applicant's spouse is devastating if family unity continues to be interrupted and if separation is prolonged. *Id.* She notes the applicant's spouse will endure a severe psychological impact that would be detrimental to her mental health. *Id.* She also notes that the emotional and financial burden would be overwhelming and that all family members will deteriorate if they are forced to live apart from each other. *Id.* Regarding the financial hardship asserted by the therapist, the AAO notes that the record does not include any documentation, such as mortgage or rent statements, utility bills, or credit card bills, showing the expenses of the applicant's spouse. The record also indicates that the applicant is living with her parents and able to rely on them for support. *Id.* Furthermore, although the applicant's spouse indicates that she must help the applicant financially since he is not working, there is nothing in the record to demonstrate this financial support or that establishes that the applicant is unable to contribute to his family's financial well-being from a location other than the United States. Going on record without supporting documentation is not sufficient to meet the applicant's burden of proof in this proceeding. *See Matter of Soffici*, 22 I&N Dec. 158, 165 (Comm. 1998) (citing *Matter of Treasure Craft of California*, 14 I&N Dec. 190 (Reg. Comm. 1972)).

Although the input of any mental health professional is respected and valuable, the AAO notes that the submitted evaluation is based on a single interview of the applicant's spouse. In that the therapist's conclusions rest on a single interview, the AAO finds them to lack the insight and elaboration commensurate with an established relationship with a therapist, thereby rendering them speculative and diminishing their value to a determination of extreme hardship.

The AAO acknowledges the difficulties faced by the applicant's spouse. However, U.S. court decisions have repeatedly held that the common results of deportation or exclusion are insufficient to

prove extreme hardship. *See Hassan v. INS*, 927 F.2d 465, 468 (9th Cir. 1991). For example, *Matter of Pilch*, 21 I&N Dec. 627 (BIA 1996), held that emotional hardship caused by severing family and community ties is a common result of deportation and does not constitute extreme hardship. In addition, *Perez v. INS*, 96 F.3d 390 (9th Cir. 1996), held that the common results of deportation are insufficient to prove extreme hardship and defined extreme hardship as hardship that was unusual or beyond that which would normally be expected upon deportation. *Hassan v. INS, supra*, held further that the uprooting of family and separation from friends does not necessarily amount to extreme hardship but rather represents the type of inconvenience and hardship experienced by the families of most aliens being deported. Separation from a loved one is a normal result of the removal process. The AAO recognizes that the applicant's spouse will endure hardship as a result of her separation from the applicant. However, the record does not distinguish her situation, if she remains in the United States, from that of other individuals separated as a result of removal. Accordingly, it does not establish that the hardship experienced by the applicant's spouse would rise to the level of extreme hardship. When looking at the aforementioned factors, the AAO does not find that the applicant has demonstrated extreme hardship to his spouse if she were to reside in the United States.

Having found the applicant statutorily ineligible for relief, no purpose would be served in discussing whether he merits a waiver as a matter of discretion.

In proceedings for application for waiver of grounds of inadmissibility under section 212(a)(9)(B) of the Act, the burden of proving eligibility remains entirely with the applicant. *See* section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1361. Here, the applicant has not met that burden. Accordingly, the appeal will be dismissed.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.